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Agenda items 27, 29, 43, 56, 72, 74, 76, 81, 82, 89, 95, 96, 97, 98, 105, 110, 111, 119 and 166

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development

Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

General and complete disarmament

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sectoral policy questions

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Globalization and interdependence

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Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Human rights questions

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 20 December 2001 from the Representatives of Belgium and India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the Joint Communiqué of the Second India-European Union Summit (see annex I), the Joint India-European Union Vision Statement on the Development of the Information Society and Information and Communication Technology (see annex II) and the Joint Declaration against International Terrorism (see annex III) adopted during the India-European Union Summit, held in New Delhi on 23 November 2001. We would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annexes were distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 27, 29, 43, 56, 72, 74, 76, 81, 82, 89, 95, 96, 97, 98, 105, 110, 111, 119 and 166.

(*Signed*) Jean **de Ruyt**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Belgium

(*Signed*) Satyabrata **Pal**
Acting Permanent Representative of India

Annex I to the letter dated 20 December 2001 from the Representatives of Belgium and India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Communiqué

Second India-European Union Summit

23 November 2001

1. The second Summit between India and the European Union was held in New Delhi, India on 23 November 2001. India was represented by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. The European Union was represented by the Prime Minister of Belgium, Guy Verhofstadt, in his capacity as President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission Romano Prodi.

2. Indian Ministers Jaswant Singh (External Affairs), Murali Manohar Joshi (Human Resource Development, Ocean Development and Science and Technology), Murasoli Maran (Commerce and Industry), as well as the Belgian Minister of State Ms. Anne-Mie Neyts-Uyttebroeck (Foreign Affairs) and the European Commissioner Pascal Lamy (Trade) participated in the Summit.

3. The leaders adopted the following statement:

Developing the full potential of our partnership

4. We, India and the European Union, global actors in the multipolar world, remain determined to further expand our relationship. We will continue to pursue this objective on the basis of the India-European Union Joint Declaration adopted at the Lisbon Summit in June 2000, which sets out the framework of our strategic partnership. We welcome the significant and concrete results achieved through the Lisbon Agenda for Action. We will continue on this path and have adopted further actions to be implemented before our next Summit, scheduled to be held in Copenhagen in 2002.

5. We welcome in particular the steadily intensifying political dialogue at all levels. We will deepen this dialogue with a view to achieving more substantive results and to focus in particular on strategic issues of common concern. Based on our shared fundamental values, we will step up efforts to promote democracy and to address human rights issues at the international and bilateral levels.

6. In order to broaden our institutional contacts, we encourage the Indian Parliament and the European Parliament to cooperate in promoting bilateral relations.

7. We commend the contribution of our industry to the India-European Union joint initiative for enhancing trade and investment focusing in the first round on the sectors of food processing, engineering, information technology and telecommunications. We call on the India-European Community Joint Commission to ensure efficient follow-up of the recommendations made by the India-European Union Business Summit. We encourage our industry to launch a second round of the

"joint initiative" to cover areas such as financial services, textiles, biotechnology, energy and power and any other mode of infrastructure.

8. We have come quite a distance in making civil society contacts a critical element of our partnership. We appreciate in particular the recommendations of the second successful meeting of the India-European Union Round Table of eminent personalities. We also consider the holding of the European Union-India Think Tank Seminar to be an important step towards better mutual understanding and bringing our peoples closer together. The further development of both initiatives will promote a dynamic civil society in India-European Union relations.

Addressing global challenges

9. We are committed to strengthening the United Nations capacity to play its role in development and maintenance of international peace and security. We recognize the growing importance of both India and the European Union in the United Nations, including our contribution to United Nations peacekeeping and international peace and security.

10. We support the international coalition in the fight against terrorism, wherever it occurs and regardless of its motives. We will ensure that the fight against terrorism is conducted in accordance with the rule of law. Based on the results of our experts' meeting on counter-terrorism, we decide to pursue our bilateral dialogue and to support early adoption, and implementation, of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We call for early signing, and ratification of, existing United Nations conventions against terrorism. We welcome adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) on 28 September 2001 and support its full implementation by all Member States.

11. We call for full implementation of Security Council resolution 1368 (2001), and action taken in pursuance of the resolution. We hope that the current evolution of events will ensure that Afghanistan is no longer a base for terrorist organizations and training camps, and will pave the way for a stable and peaceful government. The Afghan people deserve a government which is independent, broad-based, multi-ethnic, truly representative and which responds to their needs and aspirations and respects the legitimate security interests of all countries concerned. We support the central role of the United Nations in a wide framework of international consultations to promote peace, stability and reconstruction in Afghanistan, and are willing to make our contribution in this regard. We are committed to humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan and its long-term reconstruction needs after return of peace. We reaffirm warm and friendly ties with the people of Afghanistan.

12. We also agree to step up our initial efforts to combat international drug trafficking and drug abuse and its linkages with terrorism, to fight organized crime, arms trafficking, money-laundering and trafficking of persons, in particular of women and children.

13. We affirm that democracy and pluralism are the best safeguards of the human rights of individuals, and an essential basis for good governance. We are committed to promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development, and fundamental freedoms, bearing in mind their universal, indivisible and interdependent character as expressed at the World Conference on Human Rights in

Vienna. Economic growth and development contribute to fullest enjoyment of human rights.

14. We recognize that one of the greatest challenges of the new millennium will be the eradication of poverty. We reaffirm our commitment to continuing to working together closely on improving the standards of living and quality of life for our citizens.

15. We are resolved to be partners in promoting global peace and security. We reiterate our unequivocal commitment to the ultimate goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons and to general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. We will continue to work together for the complete eradication of chemical and biological weapons and for strengthening the relevant international treaty norms against these weapons. We will begin to address the issue of ballistic missile proliferation in all its aspects. We agree to work towards commencement of negotiations on a fissile materials cut-off treaty banning future production of fissile material for weapons purposes. We will step up cooperation in the field of export controls of dangerous materials.

16. We shall also continue to strengthen our consultation on multilateral environmental issues in addressing the challenges of promoting sustainable development and protecting the environment. We shall strive for the early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to address climate change and global environmental degradation in pursuance of the agreement at Bonn. We shall also maintain close interaction on the preparatory work relating to the United Nations conference on sustainable development due for 2002 and cooperate on common concerns. The European Union shall enhance cooperation with India to facilitate flows of investment and technologies and joint production of scientific knowledge in this regard.

17. We remain determined to contribute to peace, stability and development in our respective regions and beyond and consider that regional integration is a major contribution towards this goal.

Further deepening our dialogue on economic and development cooperation

18. The continuing high-level India-European Union economic dialogue has helped to build mutual confidence and understanding and allowed us to address a number of important bilateral trade and economic issues. We remain committed to intensifying this dialogue and to identifying further action that will enhance trade and investment between the European Union and India. We also recognize the need to foster even greater interaction with our respective business communities in achieving this goal.

19. We recommend the initiation of bilateral working groups that have allowed our experts to cover a range of issues and fully support them in continuing to address topics of mutual interest so as to facilitate and maximize our respective market access needs.

20. We welcome the steps taken to set up an expert group on trade defence and note that the first meeting will be held on 4 December 2001. We also welcome the

initiative by the European Community to hold a series of seminars on anti-dumping in India this December.

21. We shall strengthen our development cooperation in order to contribute to India's economic growth and sustainable development. Education, health and environment will remain the sectors of cooperation for the years ahead. The signing of the financing agreement supporting the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan marks a continuation of the European Union's commitment to India's policy of universalizing elementary education. On environment, we shall also cooperate in the holding of joint workshops, involving key actors, to evolve common initiatives and launch an identification study for setting up the Institute of Environment Technology in India. The European Union reiterates its commitment, beyond the significant emergency relief already delivered to Gujarat, to contribute to the medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction of the devastated areas.

22. We shall strengthen our bilateral economic cooperation with the aim of enhancing trade and investment flows between India and the European Union. We shall further launch a new programme specifically aimed at fostering a mutually enabling economic environment. We are committed to resuming and extending the European Community-India Economic Cross-Cultural Programme. We also encourage our private sector to make full use of existing regional European Community programmes. We shall endeavour to promote infrastructure development in India.

23. We express satisfaction with the successful conclusion of the Fourth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, held at Doha, particularly its developmental agenda as it further strengthens the multilateral trading system. We will deepen our cooperation in the World Trade Organization to this end.

Expanding our cooperation into new domains

24. We are pleased to announce the signing of an Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology. This Agreement will boost the cooperation between our scientific centres of excellence and between our most productive scientists in joint research projects at the cutting edge of science and technology.

25. We share the goal of a knowledge-based economy and harnessing cutting-edge science and technology to tackle problems of development. The European Union recognizes that India has emerged as a centre of excellence in the field of information technology. Both sides agree to facilitate the movement of professionals and provide access for export of software. We have adopted the India-European Union Joint Vision Statement on the Development of the Information Society and Information and Communication Technology at New Delhi and agree to work towards its early implementation.

26. We call for early conclusion of the Agreement on Customs Cooperation. We take note of the exploratory talks on the feasibility of having an Agreement on Maritime Transport.

27. As our political and economic links mature and as our civil societies interact ever more closely, we invite our artists, writers, musicians and filmmakers, as well as the custodians of our rich cultural heritage, to respond to the ever increasing demand by the citizens of India and Europe to learn more about our respective

cultures and to participate in cultural events and exchanges. Aware that cultural exchange depends first and foremost on the creative spirits of artists themselves, we shall strive to promote venues and events that facilitate such cultural interaction as well as cooperation between relevant cultural organizations, and call upon the private business sector to assume sponsorships in this regard.

Agenda for action

We agree on the following agenda:

Developing the full potential of our partnership

- Intensify the political dialogue between India and the European Union in order to address the consequences of the terrorist attacks of 11 September.
- Request our experts to draw up a programme of concerted actions on enhancement and upgradation of cooperation in the fight against terrorism.
- Democracy and human rights will be discussed as an element in Senior Officials' and Ministerial Meetings.
- The India-European Community Joint Commission will examine the recommendations of the Business Summit generated by our business communities in the framework of the "India-European Union Joint Initiative for Enhancing Trade and Investment". We encourage our industry to undertake a second round of joint studies under the Joint Initiative in the sectors of financial services, textiles, biotechnology, energy and power.
- Set up a long-term Think Tank Network programme to be effective in 2003.

Addressing global challenges

- Work together for early adoption and implementation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
- Promote universality, full implementation and — where needed — the reinforcement of multilateral instruments (inter alia, Chemical Weapons Convention, Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, Convention on Conventional Weapons), to which India and European Union member States are party, and start negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, banning future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in early 2002 as well as to address the issue of ballistic missile proliferation.
- Hold a second experts meeting, on cooperation on export controls of dangerous materials, in early 2002.
- Consult and interact on the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, due for 2002, with a view to developing an agreed agenda reflecting the political importance of the event.

Further deepening our dialogue on economic and development cooperation

- To continue the economic dialogue to promote closer bilateral relations in the economic and commercial fields.
- To hold the next meetings of the Subcommissions on Trade, Economic Cooperation and Development Cooperation in the first quarter of 2002 and of the Joint Commission in 2002, to review progress of bilateral economic and commercial relations.
- Launch a joint cooperation programme aimed at enhancing trade and investment flows.
- Hold first meeting of experts on trade defence.
- Encourage our private sector to strengthen their cooperation, in particular through full use of programmes such as Asia Invest, Asia Urbs, Asia IT&C and Asia Links.
- Enhance dialogue between India and the European Union for a better understanding of their respective positions on the developmental dimension of the World Trade Organization issues.

Expanding our cooperation into new domains

- Develop a common vision for our future scientific and technological cooperation, and, in early 2002, convene the Steering Committee to prepare a Work Plan under the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
- Support efforts by our information technology business in organizing a European Union-India information technology fair within the next 18 months.
- The next India-European Community Joint Commission will take up the energy sector.
- Holding of an India-European Union business meeting in April 2002 on the agro-food sector.
- Commence negotiations for a customs cooperation agreement in 2002.
- Actively pursue talks on the feasibility of a bilateral agreement on maritime transport.
- Provide a platform for creating a "European Union-India Cultural Forum" in 2002.

Annex II to the letter dated 20 December 2001 from the Representatives of Belgium and India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint India-European Union Vision Statement on the Development of the Information Society and Information and Communication Technology

23 November 2001

1. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are the driving forces behind the creation of the global information society in the twenty-first century. With their potential for making possible new applications and services, ICTs are emerging as a key tool for economic growth and development for all countries, including those engaged in the process of building their economies and consolidating the gains of development. We recognize that ICTs can play a significant role in the development of society, particularly by raising prosperity and economy productivity; therefore, we agree to jointly work towards further developing our respecting information society.

2. At the start of a new century, we reaffirm our commitment to further strengthening our substantive and growing economic partnership. Both are characterized by large geographical size, culture and linguistic diversity, and a vibrant civil society.

3. India, the world's largest democracy and home to one billion people, is emerging as a leader in the field of knowledge-based industry, especially in information technology.

4. The European Union is focusing on the information society as a substantive point of political action in order to ensure that its industry and citizens benefit fully from this new opportunity. Therefore, the Europe Action Plan was launched by the European Council in June 2000 with the objective to make the European Union by 2010 "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world".

5. The European Union remains the largest market for Indian exporters with trade growing considerably in the past few years. However, given the size of our respective economies, the potential for further enhancing trade and investment is significant. In this context, ICT in particular, is a promising area for a mutually beneficial cooperation between the European Union and India.

6. India-European Union economic cooperation in the ICT sector could provide for cooperation across a broad spectrum of business and non-business areas: from horizontal actions such as policy formulation, government initiatives, standards and regulatory issues, sector-specific projects, business and industrial management initiatives, to science and technology programmes. The essential benefit of such cooperation lies with greater private sector and civil society involvement in projects/programmes based on mutual interest, that catalyse and foster business-to-business relationships and bring benefits to local communities and grass-roots development.

7. Both India and the European Union attach importance to the effective liberalization of the markets for electronic communications, notably building on the Agreement on Information Technology and the GATS/WTO Agreement on Basic

Telecommunications Services. This will generate increased competition and thereby develop markets, extend consumer choice, improve the quality and variety of services, decrease prices and enable information society services, notably e-commerce.

8. Our cooperation dialogue will take place in the framework of the recently established European Union-India Working Group on the Information Society. This dialogue will address but not be limited to the following subjects:

(a) Policy and regulatory frameworks, and their implementation aimed at creating an appropriate environment for the development of the information society, notably by improving the infrastructure and by facilitating access;

(b) Enhanced human capacity development, knowledge creation and sharing, including training of trainers in information technology related fields;

(c) Promotion of e-Commerce with focus on small and medium-sized enterprises;

(d) Intensified cooperation in the framework of international organizations and for dealing with information society issues;

(e) Promoting research, technological development and demonstration cooperation in the fields of information society technologies;

(f) Interconnection of the research communities and networks.

9. We will further consider joint cooperative actions involving government and administrations, the private sector, and civil society. Such actions could address areas such as policy formulation and exchanges of regulatory practice, network security, cybercrime and critical infrastructure protection, standardization and pilot projects in the social priority sectors, such as health, education and "government online".

Annex III to the letter dated 20 December 2001 from the Representatives of Belgium and India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration against international terrorism

23 November 2001

1. India and the European Union affirm that international terrorism is a threat to peace and security. It constitutes a challenge to all States and the entire humanity and a grave violation of human rights. Given their tolerant character, open, democratic and multicultural societies are specially vulnerable to terrorist attacks. The struggle against terrorism is not against any community or faith.

2. All States have a responsibility to refrain from providing moral, material or diplomatic support to acts of terrorism, and prevent the use of their territory for sponsoring terrorist acts against other States. India and the European Union support the adoption on the basis of international law of decisive measures against all States, individuals, and entities, which render support, harbour, finance, instigate or train terrorists or promote terrorism. There can be no religious, ethnic, ideological or any other justification of terrorism. We support the fight against international terrorism, wherever it occurs and regardless of its motives.

3. It is necessary that all States cooperate through all lawful means to prevent and suppress the financing of acts of terrorism in their territories.

4. We welcome United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which provides an important framework for international action against terrorism. We are committed to fully implementing this resolution.

5. India and the European Union reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in the efforts of the international community in the struggle against terrorism. They agree that such a struggle must be conducted in observance of human rights and the rule of law, which it aims to safeguard and strengthen.

6. They call for an early adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. Adoption and implementation of these conventions as well as all other United Nations conventions would assist in strengthening the international legal basis for effectively combating the global menace of terrorism.